

REMARKS

Claims 6-8 and 10-12 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Rejection Under 35 USC 102 Over Cree, et al.

Claims 6-8 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Cree, et al. (WO 93/11725).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections to Claims 6-8 and 10-12. Cree, et al does not anticipate the present invention because Cree, et al is not prior art to the application. If fact, the present application and the cited reference WO 93/11725 claim priority to the same document U.S. Application Serial No. 07/944,764 filed on December 17, 1991. Enclosed is a copy of the first page of the present application and the first page of the cited reference that indicates the shared priority document. As Cree, et al. is not considered as prior art to Claims 6-8 and 10-12, these claims cannot be anticipated by Cree, et al. Thus, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C 102.

Conclusion

In light of the above remarks, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102. Early and favorable action in the case is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 6-8 and 10-12.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING FUSED LAYERS

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This is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/944,764, filed on September 14, 1992, which was a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/810,774 filed on December 17, 1991, now abandoned.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to absorbent articles such as diapers, sanitary napkins, adult incontinence devices, and the like which have fused layers.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

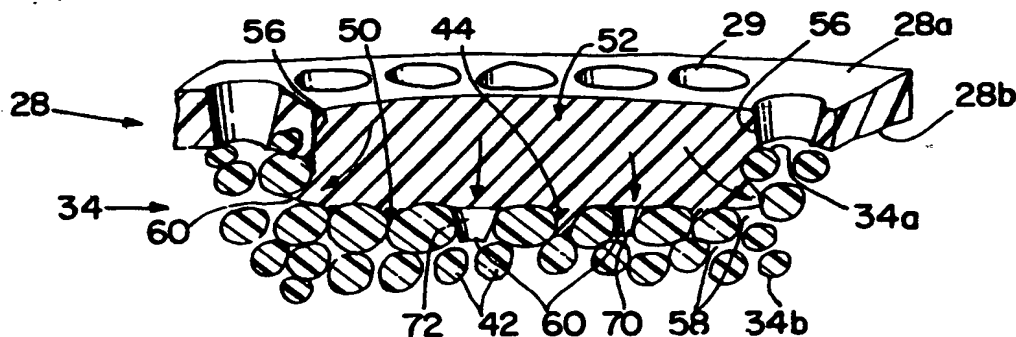
All manner and variety of absorbent articles configured for the absorption of body fluids such as menses, urine, and feces are, of course, well known. Absorbent articles are typically comprised of a number of layers of material. These generally include, from top to bottom, a liquid pervious layer, an absorbent layer, and a liquid impervious layer. Additional layers may also be interposed between any of these layers. Such additional layers may serve various different purposes.

These layers are generally held together around their peripheries by some conventional means, such as adhesives, crimping, fusing, and other methods known in



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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/09716 (22) International Filing Date: 6 November 1992 (06.11.92) (30) Priority data: 810,774 17 December 1991 (17.12.91) US (71) Applicant: THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (72) Inventors: CREE, James, William ; 1815 Taft Road, Cincinnati, OH 45206 (US). MILLS, Sue, Ann ; 4388 Miami Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243 (US). TWOHY, Elizabeth, Bilyeu ; 3863 Mount Vernon Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45209 (US). BUELL, Kenneth, Barclay ; 218 Brocdorf Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45215 (US). DAGHER, Kamal, Joseph ; 1071 Celestial Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). CARRIER, Michael, Edward ; 8675 Cranfield Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (US). OSBORN, Thomas, Ward ; 400 Deanview Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45224 (US). AHR, Nicholas, Albert ; 3736 Benhill Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45247 (US). NOEL, John, Richard ; 1526 Shenandoah Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45237 (US). REISING, George, Stephen ; 4462 Glendale Drive, Batavia, OH 45103 (US). RUUSKA, Robert, William ; 5530 Biscayne Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45248 (US).	(74) Agents: REED, T., David, et al.; The Procter & Gamble Company, 5299 Spring Grove Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US). (81) Designated States: AU, BB, BG, BR, CA, CS, FI, HU, JP, KP, KR, LK, MG, MN, MW, NO, PL, RO, RU, SD, UA, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, SN, TD, TG). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: ABSORBENT ARTICLE HAVING FUSED LAYERS**(57) Abstract**

An absorbent article, such as a diaper, sanitary napkin, adult incontinent device, and the like having fused layers is provided. The absorbent article preferably comprises a liquid pervious thermoplastic apertured film topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet, an absorbent core, and a fibrous acquisition web of spunlaced nonwoven fibers. The absorbent core is positioned between the topsheet and backsheet which are joined at least about a portion of the periphery of the absorbent article and the topsheet is fused to the acquisition web at discrete points of attachment. The acquisition web is positioned between the topsheet and the absorbent core.